

The Opal Express

Published
monthly by
The
American
Opal
Society

November 2024

Volume 57 Issue 11



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President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving Opalholics!

I want to thank everyone who came to the Opal Show in October. We had a good turnout and we had a couple of new people sign up for membership. Also, big THANK YOU to all the vendors. If it wasn't for our vendors, we wouldn't have a show! So again, thank you all and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Kathleen James, the Editor of the Opal Express, has decided to resign after a five year run. She is also the Admin for our Facebook page and will be resigning from that position also. The society is currently searching for a new Editor and Facebook Admin starting in January 2025. Any takers out there?

Stan McCall
AOS President
Custom Creative Gem Cutting





Let's extend a hearty AOS welcome to
our newest members!

Dan Kitay
Mary Trinidad

Thank you Dan and Mary for joining
the American Opal Society!

Needed
Opal Express Editor
and
Facebook Admin

At the end of December, I will be retiring as Editor of The Opal Express and will also retire from being the Admin on the AOS Facebook page. I've enjoyed my time as Editor and Admin, but it's time to move on.

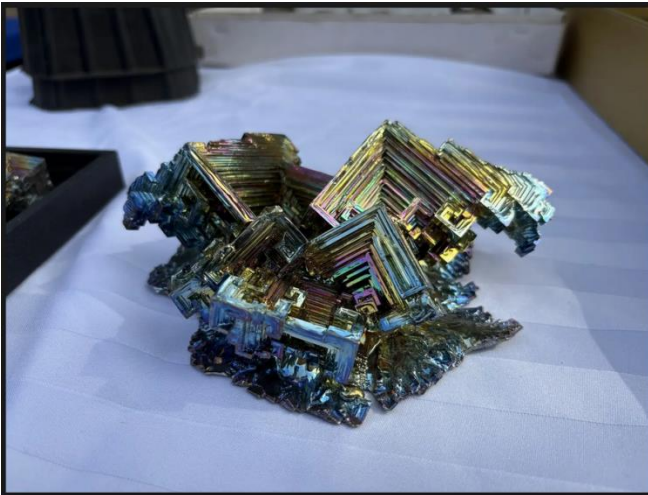
Therefore, AOS is looking for someone to take over these positions. The same person does not have to be Editor and Admin. The only requirement for Editor is that you are familiar with a document program (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc.). As long as the final document can be saved as a PDF file, you can use whatever program works for you. Newsletter content is up to you.

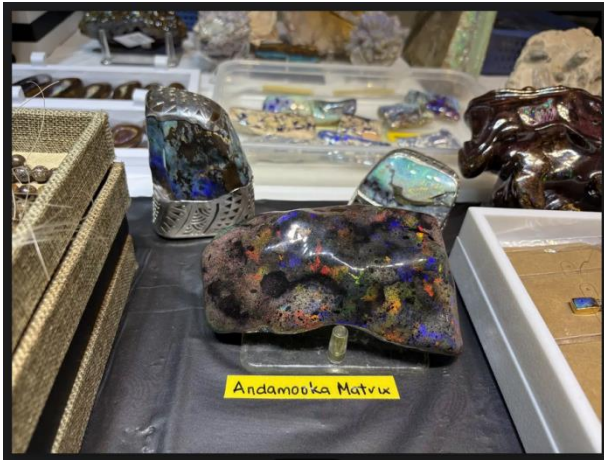
If you are interested in either position, please let me or Stan McCall know.

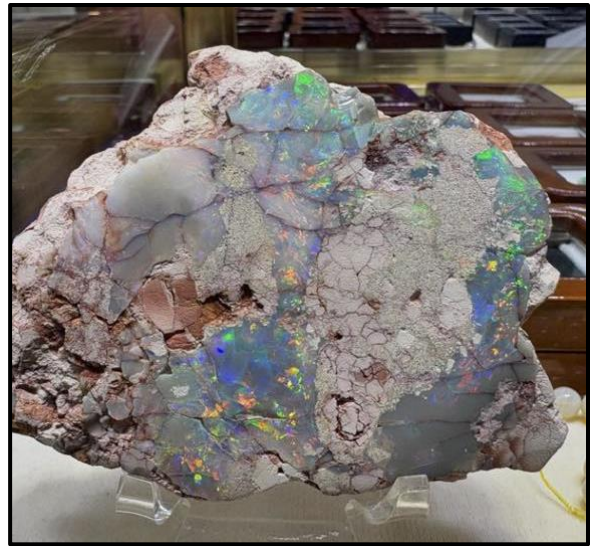
Kathleen James
Editor

2024 Opal Show Highlights











~ Bench Tips ~

This page will be dedicated to bench tips and techniques from our readers. If you have bench tips you'd like to share, let us know! Bench tips can be anything - metal work, lapidary, wirework - anything creative that you would like to share. Send your tips to: aos.editor.02@gmail.com

DRILLING A STONE

by Brad Smith

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with the results.

I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2 mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. If you're drilling a through hole, remember to ease up on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the exit hole.



Work Smarter & Be More Productive with Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books on
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reader: If your organization has an opal or rockhound-related event, please email particulars to info@opalsociety.org. Upcoming Event listings will be included at the discretion of The Opal Express editor as space and scheduling permit.

November- 2-3, 2024 – Concord, CA

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521
Hours: Saturday 10PM – 5 AM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Join us for our Annual Mineral & Gem Show! 13 & Over \$10. 12 & Under FREE. Youth Org in Uniform FREE. Vendors, Holiday Shopping, Minerals, Gems, Fossils, Meteorites, Jewelry, Beads, Slabs, Displays, Fluorescent Tent, Demonstrations, Family Activities, Games, Rock Painting, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Raffle, plus so much more...FREE SUNDAY ADMISSION WITH PAID SATURDAY! And lots of FREE PARKING!
Contact: show@ccmgclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgclub.com/show>

November 2-3, 2024 – San Diego, CA

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Admission & Parking: Free (Service Animals Only)
San Diego's finest gem and mineral show located in the beautiful Point Loma neighborhood of San Diego, 1/2 block north of N. Harbor Dr. and the San Diego Bay.. Featuring 20+ Dealers, Demonstrations and Exhibits with Minerals, Gem, Fossils, Crystals, Jewelry, Lapidary, Slabs, Rough, Rock & Gem I.D., Books, Door Prizes, Kids' Zone, and much more.
Contact: LuAnn Benton, benton.luannz@gmail.com
Driving Directions: <https://bit.ly/libcmap>
Website: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2024>

November 2-3, 2024 – Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Indian Wells Valley 68th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM Both Days
Field trip to Rainbow Ledge Agate Claim on Sunday November 3rd at 10 AM
Contact for additional information or vendor space: Miguel Gonzales (760) 382-2967 or miglogonzal@hotmail.com

Shows for 2025

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246 Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Tule Gem & Mineral Society Gemshow
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 15-16, 2025 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA 94509
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show. Admission \$7, Admission is Cash Only. All vendors take credit/debit cards.
Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 22-23, 2025 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
59th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Contact: (415) 254-1506
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

March 1-2, 2025 – Ventura, CA

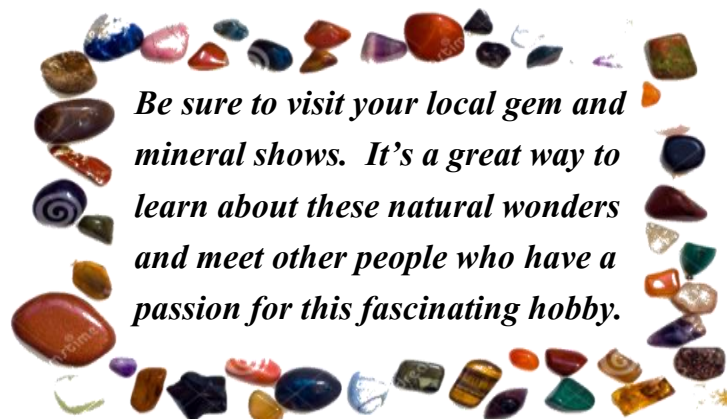
Ventura Gem and Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93003
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
62nd Annual VGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Kids' activities; jewelry-making demos; exhibits; raffle prizes, hourly silent auctions; dealers in fossils, mineral, lapidary materials; gold panning, Second-Hand Treasures Store of gently used items, books, and plants.
Free admission but the Fairgrounds charges parking if using the Fairgrounds lot.
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 7-9, 2024 – Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
1-15 toward Barstow. EXIT #157, stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to tailgate
Hours: Daily 9 M – 5 PM
49th Annual Show; Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate; Friday-Sunday 95p; Free to vendors and public; Vendors offering slabs and cabs, findings and equipment, minerals and fossils, rough material, handcrafted and faceted jewelry. Family field trip on Saturday 9a-1p at local collecting site.
Contact: Dave Duncan (831) 406-0214, president@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Contact: (530) 676-2472
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>



Be sure to visit your local gem and mineral shows. It's a great way to learn about these natural wonders and meet other people who have a passion for this fascinating hobby.

American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$35.00	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$45.00	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$15.00	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (<u>Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail</u>)		\$10.00	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$15.00	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:

American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

To pay via PayPal, please visit the [PayPal](#) page. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org. You may pay with a credit card or via your PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. If paying by PayPal, please [download](#), complete and send this application form by mail to the address above or email to AOS Treasurer aos.treasurer.02@opalsociety.org.

NAME			NAME BADGE ORDER FORM: PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE using up to two (2) lines of text for your name, nickname, or name of your opal related business.
BUSINESS NAME			
ADDRESS		APT # or PO BOX	
CITY		STATE	
ZIP or POSTAL CODE	COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)		
PHONE - Home ()	PHONE - Business ()	FAX ()	
E-MAIL			
WEBSITE			
OCCUPATION		HOBBIES AND INTERESTS	

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The AOS publishes a membership directory once per year in its Newsletter, the *Opal Express*. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information that you want listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ E-mail ☐ Website

Please sign here: _____ Date _____

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Are Your Dues Due Now?

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL

There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue.

A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be AUTOMATICALLY dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.

Thank you,
 The Editor

(revised 06/23/24)

The Opal Express

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

Volume 57, Issue 11

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

3rd Thursday of the Month

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Anaheim Community Center
250 E. Center Street
Anaheim, CA 92805

TO:



Meeting – Thursday, November 21st

at the Anaheim Community Center

Social Time: 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.



General Meeting Location at:

Anaheim Downtown Community Center

**250 E. Center Street
Anaheim, CA 92805**

**Next meeting will be Thursday, November 21st at the
Anaheim Downtown Community Center**

**→ Social Time: 6:30 p.m. ←
General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.**

American Opal Society

Website: <http://OpalSociety.org>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opalsociety>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>
Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/opalsociety>
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCegTIH1IEyO7y8wdqvRfyUA?view_as=subscriber

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